UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes for the Meeting on Feb. 5th
12:15-1:30 pm (on Zoom)

In attendance: Brent Auerbach, Jeffrey Beaulieu, Elena Carbone, Elizabeth Connor, Justin Gross, Farshid Hajir, Christiane Healey (chair), Colin Humphries, Beth Lisi, Benjamin Marlin, Christiano Mazzei, Alison Messier, Nancy Noble, Elizabeth Porto, Raymond Rennard, Gwyneth Rost, Caralyn Zehnder

1. Permission to record the meeting was given unanimously.

2. The minutes from the Dec. 11th meeting were approved unanimously with five abstentions.

3. Report & Discussion: Chair Christiane Healey reports on her conversation with AnnMarie Thorpe, Director of Disability, following up on Ms. Thorpe's visit to the November council meeting.

    a) Document with detailed answers to questions from UEC provided by Thorpe, now in the Council's OneDrive folder. UEC had suggestions for Ms. Thorpe (particularly communications faculty would like see during the semester; faculty-facing info that would be helpful to have on their website)

    b) Discussion about Disability Services having a faculty liaison; other ideas about improving communication with faculty. Ms. Thorpe would like **Rachel Adams**, an Assistant Director of Disability Services, to attend an upcoming council meeting to solicit feedback on a specific bit of communication. Invitation extended to have Adams attend Feb. 26th meeting on guidelines regarding contested accommodations

    c) Delay in planned move away from **Clockwork** software. New system has yet to be built, so there may still be time to provide input on features faculty would like to see. For example, simplified view (e.g. grid of all of our students with accommodations who wish to share that info with an instructor—particularly important for large classes). Ad hoc faculty brainstorming group to provide input to share with Ms. Thorpe on this: Jeffrey Beaulieu, Gwyneth Rost, Caralyn Zehnder

    d) Would it be helpful to have a representative of Disability Services on UEC? Ms. Thorpe agreed that it would. This could be accomplished by having Provost's office use one of its appointments for this purpose (replacing Carolyn Bassett), without having to get Faculty Senate approval of a new position on the Council.

    e) Feedback on Disability Services website's faculty-facing tab (specifically the available materials/resources). Comments to come from: Brent Auerbach, Alison Messier, Nancy Noble, Elizabeth Porto

4. Review the charge and membership of the UEC. The Rules Committee will start revising the Faculty Senate bylaws at the beginning of spring. We reviewed the Faculty Senate Bylaws, Section 18: https://www.umass.edu/senate/bylaws#section-18-undergraduate-education-council

    a) Update the charge with an emphasis on equity and inclusion; expand on the notion of teaching excellence.

    b) A key role for UEC in contrast with Academic Matters Council: "AMC has power; UEC has influence"

    c) Proposed revision: "UMass Amherst" instead of "Amherst campus"

    d) Subset of the Council will be convened by Farshid Hajir offered and propose a revision of the charge to the council at a future meeting.

    e) Membership revisions needed. Farshid Hajir and Christiane Healey will propose revisions to the list at a future meeting.